

the Union Address about whether Iraq obtained yellowcake from Niger to develop nuclear weapons turned out to be totally false and bogus.

The obvious question that has to be asked is whether this administration and its spokespersons knew ahead of time the information they were giving to the American people was not accurate. That is the essential inquiry that must take place.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 3 minutes remaining.

STATUS OF AHMAD CHALABI INVESTIGATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I note that something curious is happening in Washington today. There is a man by the name of Ahmad Chalabi, an Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, who is visiting Washington. Yesterday in the Wall Street Journal, FBI spokesman John Miller noted that Mr. Chalabi is "under active investigation." For what? He is under investigation for the charge that he leaked intelligence, including the fact that the United States had broken a crucial Iranian code and that Mr. Chalabi turned that information over to the Baghdad station chief of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security.

Of course, if that happened, Mr. Chalabi endangered American troops and American security. As a result of this charge against Mr. Chalabi on May 20 of last year, his residence was searched by the Iraqis, with the cooperation of American forces in Iraq, to see if evidence could be found.

That is a serious charge that we would somehow jeopardize the security of America's troops and our national security and whether this man leaked sensitive information. The fact that he is under active investigation by the FBI is proof positive that we are taking this seriously.

So where can we find Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Chalabi this week? Well, we will find him in Washington. He has an appointment to sit down and break bread with Treasury Secretary Snow and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Then a little later this week he is going to give a speech to the American Enterprise Institute.

Does this sound like a man under active investigation or a man who is being actively lauded by this administration? I do not understand this.

While the Department of Justice is actively investigating this man for wrongdoing that could have endangered American troops and American lives, the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury are hosting him as though he were some dignitary. So do not be surprised if the Chalabi motorcade speeds up when they pass the Department of Justice. I guess they are concerned whether an FBI agent will come out and pursue this so-called active investigation.

It is very difficult to track how this man, who gave us such misleading information before the invasion of Iraq,

now under active investigation for endangering American troops, is now the toast of the town at the Department of Treasury and the Department of State. I do not follow their logic, and I certainly do not follow the pursuit of justice if they do not have an active investigation concluded so that we know whether Mr. Chalabi has endangered American lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The Senator's time has expired. Who yields time?

The Senator from Colorado.

A NEW DAY AND TIME IN IRAQ

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, we are now less than a month removed from the successful Iraqi referendum that was approved by more than 75 percent of Iraqis. This vote marked a new dawn in the Arab world, a democratically created constitution written by Iraqis and approved by the general electorate made up of Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds. This is quite a change from the decades in which a militant dictator ruled over Iraq, with the threat of death hanging over the people for any harsh word directed toward their central government. It is truly a new day in Iraq and a new time.

Of course, some would rather ignore the strides that the Iraqi people have taken. They would rather focus on grim milestones that neither reflect the true sacrifice that has been made nor give a clear indication of how far the Iraqis have come to independence. The men and women of our Armed Forces have created an environment in Iraq that has given Iraqis a chance for democracy.

This chance is born from the blood, sweat, and tears of our servicemen and women. They deserve our gratitude and honor.

Friday marks Veterans Day and it is fitting that every year we take time to pause and reflect on those who have served in the military to protect our way of life and advance freedom around the globe. While we celebrate this year, we do so with heavy hearts knowing that there are many future war veterans who are currently serving in the theater abroad. As they have done in the past, our armed forces have taken up the challenge yet again to defend our freedoms from violent extremists to ensure that future generations of Americans can continue to prosper. Many of these war veterans have already served previous tours in Iraq, and my thoughts and prayers go out for another safe return home.

Many thousands of troops who are engaged in Iraq are Coloradans. For example, the 10th Combat Support Hospital that left Fort Carson for Iraq in October. This medical unit is being deployed not only to treat our injured servicemen and women, but also any civilian that is brought in to their trauma unit regardless of affiliation. I want to take a minute to pause and re-

flect on that. Our trained medical doctors and technicians will be using their skills to save the lives of not only Coalition Forces, but anyone who is brought in—including insurgents. They might be saving the very lives of those that would do great harm to our soldiers. These are the types of actions that show what kind of men and women serve in the armed forces. These are the types of actions that show what freedom and democracy can bring to a region long devoid of it.

The individuals in our armed forces continue to shine throughout the country with remarkable levels of service. Individuals like Col. James West of Palisade, CO. Colonel West recently received a Bronze Star after distinguishing himself during two consecutive tours of duty in Iraq. He served as a Senior Program Manager in the Project and Contracting Office in Baghdad, Iraq from December 2004 to September of this year. Because of the critical nature of his position and the need to maintain the lines of communication and trust he developed with the Iraqi Oil Ministry and the primary Iraqi owned operating companies, Colonel West volunteered himself for two consecutive tours of duty.

During this time, his leadership in the field provided the foundation necessary to achieve the goal of rebuilding the Iraqi Oil production capacity to pre-war levels. The Department of Defense and the Air Force believe that his professionalism and devotion to duty merit special recognition. I honor him for his service to our country and congratulate him on his well-deserved Bronze Star.

More than just being engaged in fighting the radical insurgents who have polluted the country, our men and women like Colonel West are risking their lives to reach out to the Iraqi people to show them the heart that is behind the uniform. From the Army engineers throughout the country helping to rebuild the infrastructure, to ordinance disposal units helping to cleanse farmland from explosives left from decades of neglect, our troops continue to make a positive difference in the lives of Iraqis.

It is important to put our military's efforts into the proper perspective. The enormous progress that has been made in Iraq is the real story.

It was only 2½ years ago that the Hussein regime was in power terrorizing large portions of the Iraqi population. And now just 9 months after they elected their own leaders for the first time, the Iraqi people have approved a historical referendum by an overwhelming majority. These are the milestones we should be celebrating—the ones that could only be achieved through the sacrifices of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

This Friday marks Veterans Day. Let us not forget our future war veterans who are gallantly serving the cause of freedom abroad. And let us remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to help bring democracy to Iraq.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the progress America is making in the global war on terrorism and in particular on the progress being made in Iraq.

Recently we passed a solemn benchmark. Two thousand of our servicemen and women have paid the ultimate price in defense of freedom. A vocal minority contend that these casualties were in vain. They claim we are in Iraq for all the wrong reasons. Further, they say that since there have been no weapons of mass destruction uncovered in Iraq that the administration obviously lied to get Americans behind the initial war effort. I think it is important that we take a few minutes to recall the world in which we lived prior to taking military action against Saddam Hussein in 2003.

The previous administration was quite clear in their belief that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. Then-President Clinton said:

Saddam rejects peace and we have to use force, our purpose is clear. We want to seriously diminish the threat posed by Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program.

Clinton's National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger, said of Hussein:

He will use those weapons of mass destruction again, as he has ten times since 1993.

Even after he left office, Al Gore stated:

We know that [Hussein] has stored secret supplies of biological and chemical weapons throughout the country.

Madeline Albright said:

The risks that the leaders of a rogue state will use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons against us or our allies is the greatest security threat we face.

Let us all remember, Iraq had been in blatant violation of 17 separate United Nations resolutions dating back to the first Persian Gulf War—resolutions which required Iraq to reveal prohibited WMD and missile programs to U.N. inspectors. American and British warplanes were continually fired upon while enforcing U.N.-mandated “no fly zones” in Iraq.

In 1993, terrorists detonated a bomb in the garage of the World Trade Center in an attempt to topple this symbol of capitalism.

In 1996, the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, housing an Air Force Fighter Wing, were attacked by terrorists. Nineteen U.S. servicemembers lost their lives. Hundreds were wounded.

In 1998, the U.S. Embassies in Tanzania and Kenya were bombed by terrorists. Hundreds lost their lives.

In October of 2000, the USS *Cole* was attacked by terrorists while refueling in Yemen. Seventeen sailors lost their lives. Many more were injured. And, of course, we all remember the day the Pentagon was attacked and the World Trade Center was leveled by terrorists crashing commercial airliners into both structures on 9/11, resulting in more than 3,000 of our fellow citizens being killed and America finally waking up to the reality that is terrorism.

The terrorists had no reason to believe that we would respond to 9/11 because we had not responded in the past. At that time, every country in the free world believed that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein did nothing to dispel those beliefs. He had actually used chemical weapons on Iranians and on his own citizens.

President Bush could not risk America's future on the hope that a dictator like Hussein, with a track record that included grotesque human rights abuses, aggression against his neighbors, and the harboring and funding of terrorists, could be reformed or indefinitely contained.

In fact, the Senate chose not to risk America's future either. This body voted 77–23 in favor of the resolution allowing President Bush to use force in Iraq. Those voting in the affirmative included the then-Democratic Leader of the Senate, the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee and the Democratic nominee for President in the 2004 election.

I have a few quotes I would like to read.

Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, October 2002:

There is unmistakable evidence that Saddam Hussein is working aggressively to develop nuclear weapons and will likely have nuclear weapons within the next five years . . . We also should remember we have always underestimated the progress Saddam has made in development of weapons of mass destruction.

He obviously had access to the intelligence that the President had.

Senator JOHN KERRY, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, October 2002:

When I vote to give the President of the United States the authority to use force, if necessary, to disarm Saddam Hussein [it is] because I believe that a deadly arsenal of weapons of mass destruction in his hands is a real and grave threat to our security. . . .

Senator HILLARY CLINTON, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, October 2002:

In the four years since the inspectors left, intelligence reports show that Saddam Hussein has worked to rebuild his chemical and biological weapons stock, his missile delivery capability, and his nuclear program. He has also given aid, comfort, and sanctuary to terrorists, including al-Qaeda members . . . It is clear, however, that if left unchecked, Saddam Hussein will continue to increase his capacity to wage biological and chemical warfare, and will keep trying to develop nuclear weapons.

Senator CARL LEVIN, Senate Armed Services Committee Hearing, September 2002:

We begin with the common belief that Saddam Hussein is a tyrant and a threat to the peace and stability of the region. He has ignored the mandate of the United Nations and is building weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them.

I could go on. We have lots of quotes, but let's stop for now.

On March 19, 2003, 2 days after our President's televised ultimatum, a 35-nation coalition launched operations to disarm Iraq.

In a matter of weeks, Hussein's decades-old regime had been removed, liberating 25 million Iraqis from one of the world's most brutal tyrannies.

That was 2½ years ago. Now, because things aren't quite as antiseptic as some would like, there are calls for American troop withdrawal. Again, I think it is important for us to review just how far we've come over the last 2½ years.

As far as security is concerned, the initial 35-nation coalition that liberated Iraq has increased to include 72 countries.

Iraqi Security Forces are continuing to take a more prominent role in defending their country. One hundred sixteen Iraqi battalions are currently conducting military operations. That's 22 more battalions on line than there were just 3 months ago.

As President Bush has stated numerous times:

Our task is to make the Iraqi units fully capable and independent. We're building up Iraqi security forces as quickly as possible, so they can assume the lead in defeating the terrorists and insurgents. Our strategy can be summed up this way: As the Iraqis stand up, we will stand down.

Our assistance to the people of Iraq is not limited to the military. There have been infrastructure improvements as well, including almost 3,500 schools.

Also, there were no commercial TV stations in Iraq before the war; today there are 44.

There were no independent newspapers or magazines in Iraq before the war. Today there are more than 100.

In January of this year, 8 million Iraqi citizens, in the face of violent threats, voted to establish a parliament. Last month, the Iraqis again returned to the polls in large numbers, and almost 10 million this time—more than 60 percent of the registered voters—voted to approve their constitution. This coming December, they will return to the polls to elect a fully constitutional government.

Because of America's leadership, compassion, and sacrifice, the world has witnessed the end of Saddam Hussein's regime and the beginnings of an energetic democracy in Iraq. This fledgling democracy has the ability to transform a region that has been a breeding ground for terrorists.

The world is a safer place because Qadhafi saw the fate of Saddam Hussein and decided Libya was better off with its weapons of mass destruction program under lock and key.

We are safer because the AQ Kahn network has been shut down and is no longer supplying materiel support to Iran and North Korea's nuclear efforts.

We are safer because terrorists and the countries that harbor them know if they threaten the United States, they could be the next ones to feel the force of the U.S. military.

Our word means something now because the President laid a marker down in the sand and stood behind that marker when it was time—when Saddam Hussein did not come forward and

agree to the resolutions that the United Nations had passed.

I believe the more than 2,000 members of our military who have died in service for our Nation in Iraq—and others will surely follow them—have made our country safer.

I believe history will show in the fullness of time that America was involved in a noble effort that transformed a region and indeed the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. First of all, I want to associate myself entirely with the remarks of the Senator from Nevada. I wanted to rise for the same purpose—to talk for a minute about our men and women in Iraq, the successes that have taken place there, and how proud I am of it.

But I can't help but, at the outset of my remarks, for a second, respond to the remarks of the Senator from Illinois a few minutes ago. I had a flashback as I listened to that speech—a flashback to my generation's war in the 1960s in Vietnam, a flashback that reminded me of what happened when American politicians began to slowly but surely question America's intentions in a war while our people were deployed, which slowly resulted in the end of withdrawal of a military that never quite had the support anymore that it deserved while in harm's way.

I would like for a moment to talk about what we do know. We have had lots of questions raised about what we don't know, what we should have done, what somebody may or may not have done. Let us talk for a second about what we do know.

Senator ENSIGN has done a great job talking about what we knew leading up to going into Iraq. I would like to remind us of a few other things.

We know that war was declared on America in the 1990s by Osama bin Laden, and we were attacked seven times without responding. It was finally with the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that this President changed America's policy to one of preemption, committed himself to going after terrorism wherever it existed, and doing everything we could to liberate the world from the tyranny of terrorism.

We must remember that today we are not in a war like past wars. We are in the ultimate war between good and evil. The terrorists don't want to beat us, they want us to lose our resolve so they can rule the world through intimidation. Terrorists don't want what America has. They do not want America to have what it has: the first amendment, freedom of speech, the right to worship as we see fit, the right to bear arms—all the things that stand in the way of the tyranny they would like to employ around the world, and have employed in a couple of places very successfully, in Afghanistan that we liberated and now in the nation of Iraq.

There are those who would have you believe, by their speeches, that we are fighting the Iraqi people. We are fighting terrorism in Iraq. This war is about Iraq, the United States of America, our soldiers, the future of our generation, and our way of life as we have known it.

I commend and respect anyone who would raise a question or a doubt and seek an answer. But we must not forget that the truths that we know are compelling, that we are fighting the right war in the right place at the right time for the right reason.

For those who say we never found a weapon of mass destruction, I would submit to you that Saddam Hussein himself was a weapon of mass destruction. In 1990, when he went into Kuwait and we went in and liberated, it was Saddam Hussein who rained missiles upon Israel that wasn't even in the fight. It is Saddam Hussein who gassed his own Kurds. It is Saddam Hussein who systematically ordered the deaths of tens of thousands of Iraqi people and buried them in mass graves.

It is no coincidence that al-Qaida operates today as the head of the insurgency that fights our troops in Iraq because this is their war—their war against what America stands for, and what the future of the world can be if we are successful. We have some tough days ahead, but we must stay the course.

In one year, we have caused the Iraqi people to have an interim resolution, to draft a constitution, ratified, and to seek a permanent election to elect permanent representatives, something that would have been unthinkable just 2 or 3 years ago.

But we did it because of the resolve of these men—the American soldiers and the Iraqi soldiers fighting shoulder to shoulder with them today in the final stages in Iraq.

Yes, we have battles to fight. Yes, there will be more terrorist attacks. And, yes, there will be tragic losses that all of us grieve. But we cannot, as a nation, lose our resolve, or have politicians quibble on the edges while our men and women are standing in harm's way.

I commend our troops and our soldiers. I commend our country. I commend our citizens to look to the future and appreciate that everything we enjoy and have today is because of those who have sacrificed in the field of battle, those who have led in this Congress and in this Nation's Government in the past to defeat dictators and tyranny wherever it existed.

We are in the ultimate battle between good and evil. Compromise and quitting is unacceptable. Seeing it through to its course is essential for our men and women in harm's way and for the children of the United States of America and the children of the world because, you see, unlike history under Saddam Hussein in Iraq, the children of Iraq now understand that there is a future, that there is the potential for a

bright future, and success and good times with no fear. They do so because this brave Nation, when attacked by the tyranny and the evil of terrorism, decided it would follow it wherever it took us and we would preempt it so it could not stand and it could not exist.

On behalf of our men and women in harm's way, the children they protect, the dreams and aspirations of Americans for a bright future, as bright as our past, I commend our men and women in harm's way. I stay the course as a Member of this Senate to support them in the war on terrorism, and I ask all of us to be careful when we raise questions that must be raised to never raise them in such a way that would compromise this effort or compromise the commitment and dedication of these brave men and women.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, what is the pending order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in a period of morning business. All time held by the majority has expired. The time remaining on the minority side is approximately 9 minutes.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to present a second-degree amendment to the Harkin amendment number 2438 for the purpose of debate only.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENSIGN). Is there objection?

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this is a little bit of a complex situation. We are anxious to get started on the bill. We want to honor the 9 minutes on the other side of the aisle. I am wondering if the Senator from Oklahoma could proceed as in morning business until such time as there is recognition sought on the other side to utilize the remaining 9 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I would be happy to accommodate that. However, our time has expired so it would take unanimous consent. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized as in morning business.

Mr. INHOFE. Thank you, Mr. President.

ARMED FORCES RADIO

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, we have heard some discussions, some debate by the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, on his amendment No. 2438. I oppose this